

Remarks

By the above amendment, claims 25 and 26 have been rewritten and dependent claims 28-32 have been added to provide further coverage for various embodiments. More specifically, independent claim 25 has been amended to: more particularly define the composition as being a cleaning composition comprising a surfactant (as supported in the specification, e.g., at page 33, lines 1-5, and page 34, line 13, through page 35, line 12); and clearly define the protease (as supported by, e.g., original claims 10 and 11 and the specification at page 3). Dependent claim 26 has been amended so that it is directed to a preferred embodiment of a cleaning composition as supported in the specification, e.g., at page 33, lines 6-8 and lines 10-11. New dependent claims 28-32 have been added to provide further coverage for various preferred embodiments described in the specification, e.g., at: page 34, lines 1-12 (claim 28); page 33, lines 8-9, and page 35, line 13, through page 39, line 14 (claim 29); page 39, lines 15-22, and page 39, line 27, through page 40, line 2 (claim 30); page 39, lines 23-25 (claim 31); and page 39, lines 23-26 (claim 32). The title has been amended to better reflect the claimed subject matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, on two grounds, namely: (i) as containing subject matter not described in the specification as reasonably conveying possession of the claimed subject matter; and (ii) as lacking enablement for the full scope of the claimed subject matter. Both grounds of rejection appear to be grounded on the recitation of a protease T protein in claim 25 as originally presented (by reference to claim 10). From comments provided in the Office Action in reference to both grounds of rejection, however, the Examiner does not appear to question that the specification demonstrates possession of, and enables, cleaning compositions comprising a serine protease T having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ.ID.NO.:7 or 9. Since independent claim 25 has now been written to clearly define the particular protease, the rejections under the first paragraph of Section 112 should be withdrawn.

Claims 25 and 26 were also rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite due to original claim 25's reference to the protease T protein of claim 10, which was previously canceled. The independent claim has been amended to expressly define the protease. Accordingly, the rejection for indefiniteness has been overcome.

Claims 25 and 26 were additionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable based on Antalis et al. (WO 98/36054), Samal et al. (US 5,278,062), and Egelrud et al. (US 5,834,290), in view of Hellegren et al. (US 4,801,451). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The cited references fail to teach or suggest a cleaning composition comprising a serine protease T having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ.ID.NO.:7 or 9 and a surfactant as defined by independent claim 25. No motivation is provided to selectively pick and choose among the disclosures of the cited references and to modify their teachings so as to arrive at the cleaning composition recited in claim 25. For this reason alone, all of the pending claims patentably define over the prior art.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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